

and racial harmony on tour throughout our nation and throughout the world. If that were all she had done, Professor Reagon would be worthy of this award. But her creative energy is truly unlimited.

For nearly 35 years, she's helped to preserve, celebrate and illuminate the rich heritage of African-American music as a civil rights activist, as a singer-composer, an author, an historian, a museum curator. Since 1993, she's been distinguished professor of history at American University here in Washington. Her latest contribution to public understanding of African-American music is the 26-part radio documentary, "Wade in the Water: African-American Sacred Music Traditions," which aired beginning in 1994 on National Public Radio stations nationwide. She is a messenger of peace, and I am deeply honored that she is with us today.

Sweet Honey in the Rock, for those of you who haven't heard it, is a truly inspiring experience, but the work of her life is even more inspiring.

[The President and the First Lady presented the medal and congratulated Ms. Johnson Reagon.]

Let me thank again all the honorees and congratulate them. Thank all of you for coming. Let me thank all the distinguished saxophonists, who came here to be with us today, for their work. *[Applause]* Thank you all for your contributions and your devotion to the American way of life.

God bless you all. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:15 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Statement on the Financial Recovery in Mexico

October 5, 1995

This morning I received a call from Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo. I am pleased to announce that he informed me that Mexico is ready to repay \$700 million of the U.S. financial assistance we provided earlier this year to address Mexico's financial crisis. This news is another important step on the road to financial recovery for Mexico, and I am very pleased that this repayment comes soon-

er than expected. I congratulated President Zedillo on his resolve to implement the tough measures needed to restore economic stability and growth.

Last winter, an imminent financial collapse of Mexico threatened the economic and national security of the United States. At my direction, the United States took action to form an international coalition to provide Mexico sufficient funds to refinance its debts. It is critically important that Mexico remain a stable neighbor, continuing to grow as a market for our exports and to cooperate with us on a broad range of issues of mutual concern.

Today's decision sends a positive signal to the financial markets that the tough financial measures Mexico has undertaken are succeeding and the American taxpayer is being repaid ahead of schedule.

I look forward to meeting with President Zedillo next week when he visits Washington on his first state visit and discussing the broad range of issues affecting our two countries.

Proclamation 6831—National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, 1995

October 5, 1995

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our Nation can take pride in the progress we have made in the war against breast cancer. Many patients who would have confronted prolonged suffering and tragic death just a few years ago can now weigh options for treatment and face the future with excellent chances for recovery. My Administration has made a strong commitment to ending breast cancer's threat to the health of American women, significantly increasing funding for research, launching a campaign to encourage older women to take advantage of the mammography covered by Medicare, and creating a National Action Plan on Breast Cancer. This initiative unites the Federal Government, advocacy groups, health professionals, and private industries in a dynamic partnership to develop new strategies for prevention and care.